

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO WAIVE ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITION OF
MOTORIZED VEHICLES IN ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK

BACKGROUND:

Each September from 2004 through 2011, members of the local Moose Lodge provided golf cart rides around Ada Hayden Heritage Park (AHHP) for older adults with mobility impairments. Although motorized mobility devices (e.g., electric wheelchairs, motorized mobility scooters, etc.) are permitted on the trails, many individuals do not have this type of device. Therefore, Lodge members determined that if they did not provide this golf cart service, these individuals may never get to experience the overall beauty of the 437-acre site.

In 2016 through 2019, the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park (Friends) provided this valuable service to individuals with mobility impairments and received many positive comments. The Friends did not provide this service in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Friends are proposing to offer tours on Thursday, September 9, 2021, between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. The Friends will rent golf carts, provide volunteer drivers and interpreters, and provide the City with a Certificate of Insurance to cover liability. Tours will be promoted and reservations will be taken for various time slots.

Municipal Code Section 19.9 restricts motorized vehicles to streets and parking lots. **Therefore, the Friends are requesting City Council waive the enforcement of this ordinance on Thursday, September 9 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM at AHHP.** In the event of inclement weather, they will use Friday, September 10 as a rain date. This request is attached.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed this request at its May 20, 2021 meeting and recommended that the City Council grant this waiver.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive enforcement of Ordinance 19.9 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Thursday, September 9 as well as Friday, September 10 if needed for a rain date, at Ada Hayden Heritage Park to allow the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park to provide golf cart tours to mobility impaired individuals.
2. Deny the request.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park are proposing to provide a tremendous service for members of our community that otherwise would not have the opportunity to tour this park in its entirety.

Therefore, it is City Manager's recommendation to approve Alternative #1 as stated above.

May 3, 2021

Keith Abraham and Ames Parks Commissioners
Director of Ames Parks and Recreation
kabraham@city.Ames.is.us

Dear Keith and Parks Commissioners:

For several years, the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park have held a one-day opportunity in the Fall for Ames residents who have mobility issues to access Ada Hayden Park. We have rented golf carts, provided a driver/interpreter for each cart and facilitated 1.5 – 2 hour tours of the park. The reviews have consistently been outstanding, with 60-80 people participating each year. COVID in 2020 interrupted our annual schedule that we would like to renew.

Our principal contacts have involved the ever-growing various senior housing operations. The opportunities for many of the residents have been limited with COVID isolations. Northcrest, Green Hills, Northridge, The Meadows and others would welcome the event to continue.

We would like to offer this activity again in the Fall '21. Our proposed date is Thursday September 9th, 2021, with a rain date of Friday, September 10th, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on those days. We seek approval from both the Parks Commission and the Ames City Council for a temporary suspension of the “no motorized vehicles” rule on the trails to hold this special event.

The Friends of Ada Hayden are happy to provide this service to the mobility challenged residents of Ames at no cost to the City or the Parks Department. We appreciate your partnership and that you will approve this request. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about the event.

Thank you.



James Patton, Board Member
Friends of the Ada Hayden Heritage Park
1829 Waterbury Circle
Ames, Iowa 50010
712-830-3736
Jlpatton.rotary@gmail.com